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## Mississippi State Board of Health,

Jackson, Miss., Oct. 3rd 1877

DEAR SIR: The State Board of Health wishes to secure information in reference to the prevailing diseases in different parts of the State, so as to form an idea of the general health of the State, and perhaps for use in the first annual report of the Board.

We are entirely dependent upon the medical profession for this information, and hope you will have the kindness to answer the following inquiries:

1. Has there been in your locality a notable increase, or decrease, either of sickness or of death from all causes, for the year ending October 1st, 1877, compared with previous years?

2. Have any diseases been especially prevalent in your locality during the past year?

3. If so, please name such diseases in the order of their prevalence, stating the type of each, whether mild or severe?

4. Can you discover any causes for the prevalence of these diseases?

5. If you can, do you believe that such causes are in any degree preventable or removable? And if so, how?

6. Have any diseases been attended with unusual fatality? If so, please name them?

7. Please give as nearly as possible the number of cases of any endemic, epidemic or contagious diseases, and especially state whether there have been any cases of small pox. How many? Had these cases been previously vaccinated? What was the result (death or recovery)?

8. Give your opinion as to the proportion of the inhabitants of the locality included in your report, who are thoroughly protected against an attack of small pox by vaccination and re-vaccination ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{3}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ )?

9. Can you suggest any method of improving the general sanitary condition of your locality?

The board while desiring explicit answers to the above questions, will, if you are unable to give such answers positively, be glad of your opinion (stated as such) on any of the questions; and any additional information you may be pleased to give, will be thankfully received, and the name of the writer and locality referred to omitted from our report if so Requested.

In your reply to these questions it will not be necessary to repeat them, but simply to refer to them by number.

Please let your report be understood to cover the year ending October 1st, 1877. All replies should be mailed to this office by November 1st.

Hoping to hear from you, I am

Yours very truly,

WIRT JOHNSTON, M. D.,

Secretary State Board of Health.

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Respectable letter to the  
Med. profession asking  
kind information on  
the prevailing diseases  
in different parts of the  
State. Oct. 3, 1877

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W. H. L. J. S. T. O. N. M. D.